



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Rwanda Country Brief

October 2022

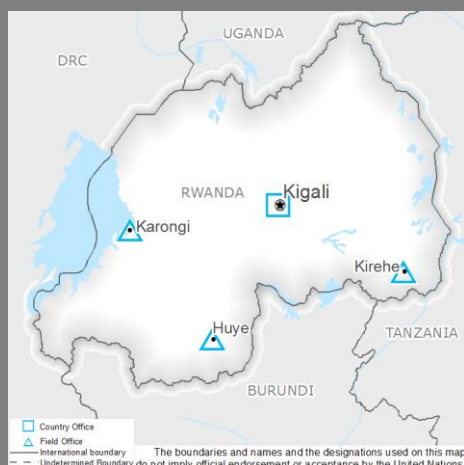


Operational Context

A small, landlocked country with a population of 12.9 million people growing at 2.31 percent annually, Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. In the past three decades, the Government of Rwanda has recorded significant achievements in poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental sustainability, education, and public health, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, 38.2 percent of the population continues to live below the poverty line and almost one fifth is food insecure. Levels of stunting among young children remain very high (33 percent according to the 2019-2020 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey). Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, with 89 percent of rural households involved in small-scale farming. Irregular rainfall, drought, floods, and the limited amount of land that is suitable for agriculture, alongside pests and diseases, continue to pose risks to food security.

Moreover, according to UNHCR data, as of 31 October 2022 Rwanda hosts 126,916 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. Many refugees have been in the country for decades and rely almost completely on WFP food assistance. The "forgotten crises" in neighbouring countries, where protracted volatility is exacerbated by political instability, may lead to the further arrival of refugees in the coming years.



Population: **12.9 million**

2021 Human Development Index:
165 out of 191

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent** of children between **6-59 months**

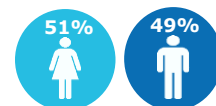
In Numbers

319,559 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 617,474 cash-based transfers (CBT) made

USD 17.2 million six months (November 2022 – April 2023) net funding requirements, representing 60 percent of total requirements.

222,563 people assisted in October 2022



Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 115,200 people in October 2022, including 106,508 refugees, 500 Rwandan returnees, and 16 asylum seekers. 8,176 refugee and host community children attending the same schools received school meals. Cash-based transfers amounting to USD 617,474 were distributed to refugees in the five camps, allowing them to purchase food of their choice.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP continued to provide reduced rations RWF 7,000 to refugees classified as highly vulnerable refugees (87 percent of all refugees) and RWF 3,500 to moderately vulnerable refugees (6 percent of all refugees). These rations correspond to only 46 percent and 73 percent, respectively, of the current value of the food basket (RWF 12,937). [Additional sustainable funding](#) would enable WFP to restore full rations and adjust transfer values to the [recent food price inflation](#) in Rwanda.

School Feeding Programme:

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and district authorities, WFP provided meals to 116,021 students from 140 schools. This is expected to positively influence school enrolment and retention.
- WFP began providing cash worth USD 13,318 to 140 schools for the purchase of fresh foods and animal-source protein two days a week. This will greatly improve the nutritional value of the meal, providing much-needed vitamins and minerals to school children. WFP also organized planning and contracting sessions between schools and farmer organizations producing vegetables as part of the support provided under the homegrown school feeding programme to benefit the local economy, focusing on Gasabo district.
- Throughout October, WFP continued to work with the Ministry of Education to facilitate the Rwandan government's participation in the global School Meals Coalition. Rwanda was represented by the Minister of State for Primary and Secondary Education at the Ministerial Taskforce Meeting in Finland. A sub-regional network is planned to be established.

Resilient Livelihoods:

- Following the completion of terracing and marshland rehabilitation, Irish potato seeds, cassava seedlings, compost, and fertilizer were distributed to 1,651 farmers (female: 551; male: 1,100) in Karongi, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, Kayanza, and Rutsiro districts.

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Photo caption: The WFP Country Representative Edith Heines celebrated World Food Day in Rwanda on 28 October 2022 together with farming communities from Musanze and representatives from cooperatives, MINAGRI, FAO and IFAD. Photo: ©WFP/JohnPaul SESONGA

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
278.3 m	128.4 m	17.2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees, returnees and other crisis affected population in Rwanda have access to adequate and nutritious food at all times.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance and basic livelihood support to refugees and returnees.
- Provide food or cash, nutrition support and other assistance to local Rwandan populations in need of assistance, including through provision of WFP services to the Government of Rwanda and humanitarian agencies.

Strategic Result 2: Access to Food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in food-insecure communities/areas have improved access to adequate and nutritious food all year.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Support the design, implementation, and scale up of national food security and nutrition sensitive social protection programmes.

Strategic Result 3: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Children under 5, adolescents, and pregnant, nursing women/girls in Rwanda have improved access to nutritious foods and services to meet their nutritional needs all year.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening support to national programmes that improve the nutrition status of targeted populations.

Strategic Result 4: Smallholder Productivity & Incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers, especially women, have increased marketable surplus and can safely access agricultural markets through efficient supply chains by 2030.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide support, education, and capacity strengthening services for smallholder farmers and value chain actors.

Strategic Result 5: Global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 5: The Government of Rwanda and the humanitarian community is provided with adequate, timely, cost-efficient and agile supply chain services and expertise necessary to effectively respond to emergency crisis.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Deliver supply chain services and expertise to enable all partners to provide assistance to affected populations.

Resilient Livelihoods (cont.):

- To reduce soil erosion while keeping nutrients on terraces and stabilizing the terrace embankments of 199.87 ha, WFP also distributed seedlings of elephant grasses, Leucaena, grevillea, and calliandra. In addition, WFP supported the construction of a belt canal and the protection of the Bitenga marshland catchment area by planting 400 m² of various vegetation species such as bamboo and kikuyu.

Nutrition and HIV:

- WFP in collaboration with the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) conducted HIV positive life skills (PLS) sessions as a social and behaviour change approach to over 7,000 students in eight schools in Rubavu, Musanze, Nyamasheke and Rusizi districts. HIV prevention educational materials such as flyers and booklets with key HIV information and 88 posters with PLS messages were distributed to each school's health clubs. Information on HIV was also provided to students through questions and answers with the PLS presenters (RBC and WFP staff).

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- In partnership with the WFP Innovation and Knowledge Accelerator (INKA) and CORDAID, WFP Rwanda formally launched the SheCan project in Nyaruguru District. SheCan is a digital blended financing platform that enables donors and private lenders to support financial inclusion and gender-focused programmes. The loans disbursed will be used to purchase inputs on concessional terms that are more friendly to smallholder farmers.

Monitoring

- WFP's monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the food basket in October 2022 increased by 16.7 percent compared to September 2022 and was 99 percent higher compared to October 2021. The increased cost of the food basket is attributed to rising fuel and transportation costs across the country and reduced stock of season B harvest.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 17.2 million for the next six months (November 2022 – April 2023), representing 60 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 14.9 million is required to restore full food rations to refugees, in line with a targeting mechanism where WFP provides support based on vulnerability status.
- In 2023, WFP needs USD 1.1 million in complementary funding for the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme to procure locally produced fresh foods sourced from markets nearby schools, as a part of the Government's national school feeding programme.
- WFP is facing a shortfall of USD 400,000 in 2023 for strengthening the national social protection system, required to meet the technical assistance commitments to the Government for enhanced shock response.
- In addition, WFP needs USD 750,646 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government's stunting prevention efforts.

Donors: Canada, EU (ECHO and INTPA), France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mastercard Foundation, New Zealand, Norway, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies, USA (USAID BHA and USDA).